GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:197
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
WORKING GROUP REPORT ON E GOVERNANCE
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

:-

(a) whether the Goveernment have examined the report submitted by the working group on convergence and e-governance of the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the report;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up a National Institute of Smart Governnance;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the alternative arrangements taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): In the report recommendations have been made regarding guiding principles for Governmental intervention and public funding. These are:

- Government should act as a facilitator and create conditions for the growth of Convergence applications and good governance through the application of Electronics and Informatics.

- Development of technology should be done at public expense only in areas of gaps or if the cost is disproportionately high in acquiring technology from elsewhere.

- Government should promote setting up of robust backbone with ample bandwidth which shall be available to the content providers / distributors and network service providers.

- Government may fund test-bed projects to test the applications specially in the field of delivery of government services and information electronically.

- Since Convergence has a bearing on E-government, the projects funded from public resources should be such that they help in tackling the digital devide` and taking the benefits of IT to the common man.

- The projects taken should aim at creating a knowledge society and generate intellectual and cultural enrichment.

(c): The Report submitted by the Working Groupon Convergence & E-Governance for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) has been duly taken into consideration for formulating the Tenth Five Year Plan for the Information Technology sector including E-Governance. While approving the Tenth Five year Plan, the National Development Council (NDC) has directedthat four Empowered Sub-Committees be set up. One of the Sub-Committees envisaged is on Governance Reforms including E- Governance.

(d),(e) and (f): National Institute of Smart Government(NISG)has been incorporated as a Section 25 (not for profit) Company under the Indian Company Act 1956. It is a joint venture of Government, NASSCOM (National Association of Software Service Companies) and the Private Sector. NISG is expectedto play a pivotal role in channelising private sector resources and competencies into the national e-Governance efforts.